

JUN 23 1977

June 22, 1977

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Quality
P. O. Box 1368
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Site:	Synzel - Verona
ID #:	MD007452134
Break:	17.9
Other:	MDNR 6-22-77

0751

Attn.: Steve Townley

Dear Mr. Townley:

As per our phone conversation on Friday, June 10 and again on Monday, June 13 concerning the fish kill in Spring River adjacent to our Verona, Mo. plant, the following is submitted:

The fish kill was discovered by our Verona Plant Manager, Bill Zay, about 9:00 AM June 10. Bill was inspecting the construction work on the property adjacent to the North boundary of our plant where a pit was being dug as part of the Verona Wastewater Treatment System. He then contacted Bill Glasgow of our Engineering Department, who attempted to contact the Conservation Commission. As Bill was unable to reach anyone from the Conservation Commission, he called the Sheriff's Department and requested that they make contact. Personnel from the Sheriff's Department noted that Mr. Haddock, who owns the property, had already contacted them and that the conservation agent would arrive soon. Mr. Tennyson arrived about 11:30 AM and he and Bill Glasgow inspected the river and took water samples. I was notified about 12 noon and arrived at the plant about 1:30 PM. Mr. Tennyson had made a count of the fish affected and noted that dead fish were also found upstream of our property (see sketch). He reasoned that the kill must have occurred the previous afternoon or evening. At the time of my inspection (1:30 PM) minnows were noted in the effluent from our drainage ditch. Our investigation did not reveal any problems during that time. A possibility exists that a vacuum pump in Bldg. V-11 could have caused a discharge of ammonia from an experimental operation. This pump was found connected to a water line discharging cooling water to the drainage ditch. This would have occurred during an evening shift and has since been disconnected. Another, more remote possibility is that a leaking heat exchanger in the choline operation would have allowed a discharge to the cooling tower overflow. As this was detected about the middle of last week it seems improbable that this would have created a problem at that time.



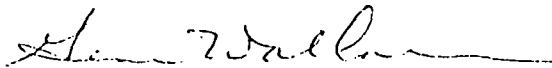
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SUPERFUND RECORDS

49/7-50993

Other possibilities would be the pumping of the excavation on the property where the previously mentioned construction work was taking place, and dredging upstream of our plant. Although dredging was underway last week, we do not know if it would have been so during the time of the fish kill.

Mr. Tennyson called me Friday, June 17 with the results of his sampling. These samples indicated a high concentration of ammonia in our drainage ditch. This is surprising as minnows were swimming in at least a part of the ditch at the time. Our sample results should be ready sometime this week at which time I will send you a copy.

Sincerely,

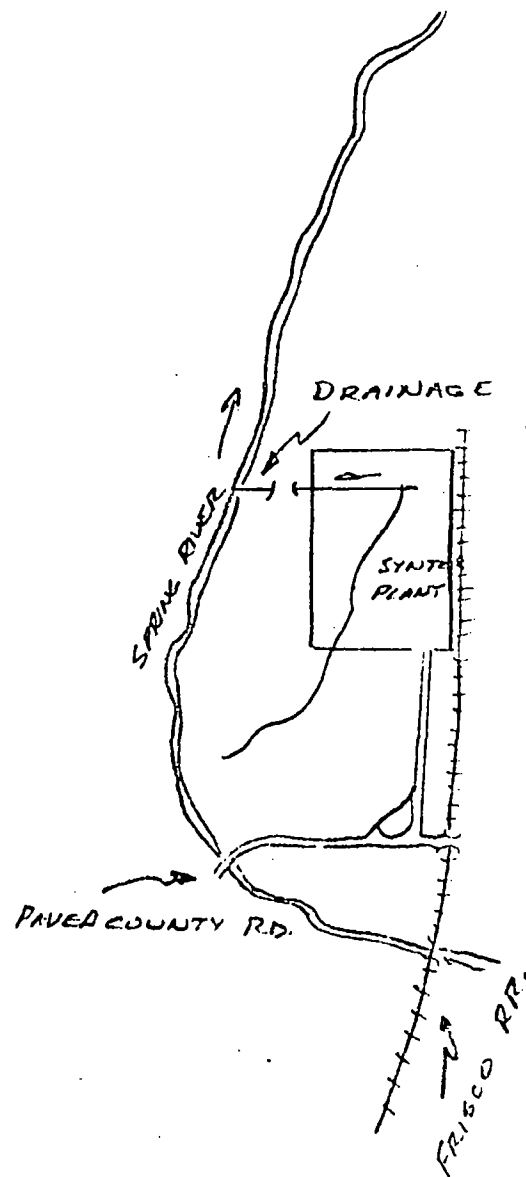


Gene Wallace
Engineering Manager

cc: R. Bagby
B. Glasgow
B. Zay

Department of Natural Resources ✓
Springfield Regional Office
1155 E. Cherokee
Springfield, Mo. 65807

Attachment



DRAINAGE DITCH
PERMIT NO. MO-0002356
OUTFALL 001

SYNTEX VERONA PLANT
JUNE 20, 1977